

**FOREST COMMUNITY NEWS: THE *NATIONAL* PERSPECTIVE**

**No. 3**

**September 19, 2005**

**FROM THE EDITORS...**

Even though Congress has been in recess for the past month, there is still much news to report! The Federal Courts and agencies have been busy, and the Bush Administration turned an eye toward the environment in August with its Cooperative Conservation Conference in St. Louis, MO. Surely, this Fall will bring more exciting advancements in the world of community-based forestry than simply the changing colors of the leaves. Well, maybe not MORE exciting (for those of us that love Fall), but interesting nonetheless. So, stay tuned, and thanks for your continued interest in FCN.

Happy Fall.

**FROM CAPITOL HILL...**

**ENERGY POLICY**

- The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (HR 6) was passed by a House-Senate conference committee on July 27, 2005. The bill was approved by the House (275-156) on July 28 and on July 29 by the Senate (74-26). The President signed the bill, which has an expected cost of \$12.3 billion over ten years, into law on August 8, 2005. Section 210 of the bill authorizes \$50 million each year for ten years to provide grants to improve the use of forest biomass for both energy and value-added products.

To view the text of the conference report visit:

[http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=IssueItems.View&IssueItem\\_ID=21](http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=IssueItems.View&IssueItem_ID=21).

For information on the Bill's renewable fuels provisions, visit:

[http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/agNews\\_050808crENERGY.xml&catref=ag1001](http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/agNews_050808crENERGY.xml&catref=ag1001)

Additional information is available at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/08/AR2005080800124.html>.

**INTERIOR-ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS**

- On July 26, 2005, the House-Senate Interior conference committee approved the Fiscal Year 2006 Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill. It was voted on and passed on the House floor on July 28, and on July 29 it was voted on and passed on the Senate floor. The President signed the Bill into law on August 3, 2005.

The bill provides funding of \$4.625 billion for the Forest Service and \$1.8 billion for the Bureau of Land Management. BLM and Forest Service hazardous fuels reduction programs will receive

\$497 million - \$286 million for the Forest Service and \$211 million for BLM. The Forest Service will receive \$9.7 million for Economic Action Program Grants, however all of those funds have been earmarked for special projects by Congress. The bill also provides \$5 million to hazardous fuels for a biomass grants program. To read the conference report visit: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app06.html>.

## **LOGGING**

- Rep. Greg Walden of Oregon is expected to introduce legislation before the year is out that would expedite salvage logging sales after fires and other natural events. Although the bill is only in draft form now, environmentalists fear it will limit environmental review, public involvement, and judicial oversight as a means of expediting salvage logging. Walden's push to change how the agency handles restoration following large wildland fire events began in January 2005, when he laid out what he called an "action-oriented" agenda for the House Forests Subcommittee in the 109th Congress. *Excerpted from Land Letter 8/25/05.*

## **FROM THE ADMINISTRATION...**

### **BIOMASS**

- The energy bill that President Bush signed into law in August offers much needed grants and tax credits to the biomass industry. These new provisions are designed to address the high costs of harvesting and transporting the material and the relatively low commercial value of the products produced; moreover, it is hoped that the new provisions will reduce start-up costs in an attempt to draw more people into the field. The Forest Service has developed a program -- the Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol or CROP -- designed to address some of these issues by leveling biomass supplies across regions. CROP programs are under way in central Oregon, the Southwest and Southeast.

### **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM**

- Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has announced that USDA will soon offer re-enrollment and extensions of Conservation Reserve Program contracts. Johanns also announced that USDA will seek to broaden its use of new market incentives that encourage landowners to invest in the maintenance, creation, and restoration of healthy ecosystems. A Market-Based Environmental Stewardship Coordination Council will be created to ensure that a sound market-based approach to quantifying conservation services is developed.

### **GRAZING**

- The Forest Service has released for public comment new directions for grazing permit administration. Chapters 10 and 20 in the grazing permit administration handbook, issued previously on July 19, 2005, are being withdrawn. The newly released portions of these chapters will be finalized after public comment has been received and analyzed, and after final directives have been issued. August 19, 2005 will mark the beginning of a 120-day public comment period

on the interim directives and the proposed amendments. The Forest Service directives and proposed amendments are available at: [www.fs.fed.us/rangelands/](http://www.fs.fed.us/rangelands/).

## **RECREATION**

- Forest Service officials have scaled back their assessment of how much recreation on national forest land contributes to the American economy. The revised numbers now available may spur the Administration to shift some of its recreation dollars within the system but will not prompt it to downgrade activities such as hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching. According to a Forest Service strategic planner who developed the most recent estimates, earlier studies inflated the number of people visiting national forests and how much money they spent while they toured the area. The Forest Service obtained lower visitor numbers through its National Visitor Use Monitoring Program, which surveyed tourists in every national forest between 2000 and 2004.

## **ROADLESS**

- The new rule governing the protection of roadless areas in national forests allows governors of 38 eastern states and Puerto Rico to petition the Agriculture Department to maintain roadless protections. Currently, 97% of the nation's 56 million roadless acres are in 12 Western states. By comparison, there are about 1.4 million inventoried roadless acres in the 18 states east of the Mississippi River. Observers question whether Eastern governors will go out of their way to apply for roadless protections in their states. Apparently, the governors of Maine and Kentucky are still reviewing the rule and their options, but the governors of Tennessee and New Hampshire have already decided the petition process is not worth it. In New Hampshire, which has 235,000 roadless acres, the governor has decided that the forest plans for the White Mountain National Forest are enough to ensure proper protection of roadless areas there. To see maps of the roadless areas in the national forests, visit: [www.roadless.fs.fed.us/maps/usmap2.shtml](http://www.roadless.fs.fed.us/maps/usmap2.shtml)

## **WILDFIRE**

- Scientists have been testing whether or not remote-controlled airplanes — similar to the spy drones the U.S. military flies over Iraq and Afghanistan — can help track the direction and behavior of the fast-moving flames of wildland fire in the West. After the experimental flight of three unmanned aerial vehicles this summer, the USDA Forest Service will launch the first real-life deployment next spring. The plan calls for the planes to traverse a dozen Western states, mapping real forest fires 24 hours a day.

## **WILDERNESS**

- On August 8, 2005, the Forest Service issued an interim directive (1902.2–2005–10) to Forest Service Handbook (1909.12, section 71.12) to guide agency employees in identifying and evaluating potential wilderness areas during land management planning. For the complete text, visit: [www.fs.fed.us/im/directives](http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives)

## **FOREST SERVICE APPOINTMENTS**

- The Forest Service has announced the appointment of Corbin Newman as director of forest management. Newman, currently the National Fire Plan coordinator for the Forest Service, replaces Chuck Myers who was recently named regional forester for the agency's Southern Region. His appointment is effective immediately. For more information, visit: [www.fs.fed.us/news/2005/releases/08/corbin-newman.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2005/releases/08/corbin-newman.shtml)

## **OTHER NATIONAL NEWS...**

### **SPRAWL**

- America's national forests are becoming islands trapped by new houses, according to a new study conducted by Volker Radeloff, a forestry professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Suburban growth threatens to cut off the natural corridors that national forests provide, which allow plants and animals to move from one wild patch to another. For his study, Radeloff analyzed government census data on housing increases in and near all U.S. national forests between 1950 and 2000. During this time period, the number of housing units within national forest boundaries increased from 500,000 to 1.5 million, an increase largely attributed to inholdings. Nationwide, inholders own about 17% of all national forest lands. For more information, visit: [www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8875567/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8875567/)

## **IN THE COURTS...**

### **ENDANGERED SPECIES**

- A federal judge has ruled that the Bush administration violated environmental laws last year when it removed forest-wide species protection measures from the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). Under the original NWFP, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management were mandated to survey public lands in California, Oregon, and Washington for 296 species not protected under the Endangered Species Act. Last year, the Bush administration eliminated this requirement -- known as the Survey and Manage program -- in an effort to increase timber production under the plan, which had fallen below what was expected. But a judge ruled in early August that the BLM and the Forest Service had broken the law by not fully analyzing the environmental effects of ending the surveys. The administration had argued another forest program -- called the "special species status" program -- would protect the species, but the judge said the two programs were not necessarily interchangeable -- a species protected under one might not be protected under the other. Excerpted from Land Letter (8/4/05).

### **LOGGING**

- The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the Forest Service set allowable logging levels in the Tongass National Forest too high. The Forest Service and Justice Department are still reviewing the decision and have reached no conclusions regarding changes to the 1997 Tongass land-use management plan, which set logging limits. The primary issue in the case is

the agency's overestimate of market demand for Tongass timber. To view the ruling, visit: [www.ca9.uscourts.gov/ca9/newopinions.nsf/E5459BCD33E1E3F588257054004A8748/\\$file/0435868.pdf?openelement](http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/ca9/newopinions.nsf/E5459BCD33E1E3F588257054004A8748/$file/0435868.pdf?openelement)

- In August, a federal judge blocked a planned Forest Service timber sale in Wisconsin's Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, saying that the agency had not adequately reviewed the environmental effects of logging. The judge ruled that the Forest Service had failed to fully assess the cumulative impacts by ignoring the effect on species that might live in some of the parcels slated for logging. Three of the species that could be affected are the threatened red-shouldered hawk, the goshawk, and the pine marten.
- The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has stopped a timber sale on the Fishlake National Forest in Utah, ruling that the Forest Service failed to adequately study the possible environmental effects of the clearing project. The appeals court upheld a request to reverse a decision that allowed the Forest Service to log 219 acres of forest near Capitol Reef National Park in southern Utah. The project's objective is to thin the stands at highest risk for spruce beetle infestation while providing timber products for local businesses. The request argued that the federal agency failed to select and gather accurate population trend data of indicator species that are present in the timber sale project area and did not consider "a reasonable range of alternatives" to the project. To view this decision, visit: [www.uec-utah.org/PDF/1000\\_LAKES\\_TS\\_10TH\\_CIR\\_DEC.pdf](http://www.uec-utah.org/PDF/1000_LAKES_TS_10TH_CIR_DEC.pdf)

### **CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & OTHER EVENTS**

- **Farm Bill Forums:** Farm Bill forums have been/will be held in a number of states as the 2007 Farm Bill debate gains momentum. These public meetings are designed to determine regional concerns and place them in the context of national agricultural policy. The federal register notice announcing the USDA's request for comments includes the six central topics upon which speakers will base/have based their comments.

Although the forums have been focused on traditional agriculture, forestry issues have also been discussed somewhat. At the August 3, 2005 forum in Redwood County, Minnesota, Carol Berg, State President for the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, said, "Congress should...support federal funding to assist private forest land owners in implementing sustainable forestry practices." Greg Russell, Minnesota Society of American Foresters State Chair, spoke briefly at the same forum. Opinions and experiences with various Farm Bill programs, as expressed by producers and practitioners, will help construct the framework for the 2007 Farm Bill.

Farm Bill Forums have been/will be held on the following dates and locations:

- July 7, 2005: Nashville, TN
- July 26, 2005: Minot, ND
- August 3, 2005: Redwood County, MN
- August 11, 2005: Des Moines, IA
- August 12, 2005: Fresno, CA

- August 18, 2005: Indianapolis, IN
- August 25, 2005: Tuskegee, AL
- August 25, 2005: Palmer, AK
- August 26, 2005: Las Cruces, NM
- August 31, 2005: Louisville, KY
- September 1, 2005: Decatur, IL
- September 6: Blackfoot, ID
- September 7: Huron, SD
- September 12: Hutchinson, KS
- September 14: Salt Lake City, UT
- September 15: Grand Island, NE
- September 20: London, OH
- September 22: Oklahoma City, OK
- September 29: New York City, NY
- September 30: Cheyenne, WY

The USDA's federal register notice is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/documents/05-11787.pdf>

Dates and locations for upcoming forums are available at: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1UH?contentidonly=true&contentid=2005/09/0342.xml>.

Transcripts from recent forums are available at: [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1UH?navid=FARM BILL NEWS&parentnav=FARM BILL FORUMS&navtype=RT&deployment\\_action=changenav](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 1UH?navid=FARM BILL NEWS&parentnav=FARM BILL FORUMS&navtype=RT&deployment_action=changenav)

A synopsis of comments provided for each of the USDA's six Federal Register questions is available at: <http://www.thelandonline.com/column.php?storyid=2616>

- **“When You Get Back Home: Partnering for Field-Level Solutions to Hazardous Fuel Reduction, Woody Biomass Utilization And Other Forest Health Issues”:** October 11-13, 2005, Missoula, MT. This is a regional conference focusing on the states of Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Nevada, North and South Dakota, California, Arizona, Alaska and New Mexico. It is designed to foster working relationships at the local level among conservation districts, RC&D Councils, county and other local units of government, state forestry agencies, state soil & water conservation agencies, USDI agencies, the Forest Service and NRCS in solving woody biomass utilization and other forest health issues. Community leaders, educational institutions and private enterprise are encouraged to attend. Others outside the region are welcome. For more information, visit: <http://www.nacdnet.org/meetings/WestBiomass/>
- **“Contracting in Federal Forest Management: A Training for the Environmental Community”:** October 24-25, 2005, University of Oregon, Eugene. This is a training session to help members of the environmental community understand how federal land management contracting works. The goals of the training are to increase the capacity of participants to engage in local stewardship contracting projects and to increase dialogue between community-

based forestry and environmental activists about contracting. The session will focus on areas of concern and controversy for environmental activists and will combine talks, discussion, activities, and a field tour to actively engage participants. The training is cosponsored by Ecosystem Workforce Program, University of Oregon, the National Forest Restoration Collaborative, American Lands Alliance, Watershed Research and Training Center, and Sustainable Northwest. For more information contact Jenna Gibson with American Lands Alliance at (202) 547-0188 or [jgibson@americanlands.org](mailto:jgibson@americanlands.org)

- **2005 National Conference on Urban Ecosystems: November 17-18, 2005, Charlotte, NC.** The USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program is offering Minority and Underrepresented Registration Scholarships for this conference. The Forest Service will award three scholarships for each state, as well as three each for Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Pacific territories. The scholarship deadline was July 30, 2005; however, after this date, the scholarships will be awarded to those who are eligible as available on a first come, first served basis. For complete information and application, visit the American Forests Conference Website at: [www.americanforests.org/conference/schMinority.php](http://www.americanforests.org/conference/schMinority.php)
- **Forest Guild 2005 Annual Meeting: December 3-4, 2005, Santa Fe, NM.** Ten years ago, when a handful of foresters were introduced to each other in Santa Fe, New Mexico, a new force came together in forestry. The 2005 annual meeting returns to the place of the Guild's conception to celebrate the founding and to explore changes in the forest management environment since the gathering in 1995. For more information, visit [www.forestguild.org](http://www.forestguild.org)

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

- The USDA Forest Service is seeking nominees to fill positions on the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC). Individuals selected for the following positions will serve from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2008: (1) Person representing forest products, nursery, or related industries; (2) person representing academic institutions with an expertise in urban and community forestry activities; and, (3) person who is not an officer or employee of any governmental body, who is a resident of a community with a population of more than 50,000 as of the most recent census, and who has expertise and has been active in urban and community forestry.

Nominations to complete the two years remaining in a vacated position are also being accepted. This position, which is a person representing a national non-profit forestry and conservation citizen organization, will serve from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007.

Nominations to complete the remaining year in two vacated positions are also being accepted. These positions consist of: (1) a person representing city/town government; and (2) a person who is not an officer or employee of any governmental body who is a resident of a community with a population of less than 50,000 as of the most recent census and has expertise and has been active in urban and community forestry. The selected individuals will serve from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006.

Nominations must be submitted by September 30, 2005. Anyone nominated or who submits a nominee for consideration will be notified after the Secretary of Agriculture makes his selections. The call for nominations letter with complete instructions on the nomination process is posted on the NUCFAC homepage located at: <http://treelink.org/nucfac/>

## GRANTS

- In mid-August, the Interior Department announced more than \$32 million in grants to help fund on-the-ground conservation projects by states, tribes and private landowners in 49 states and two territories. These grants help empower people to conserve wildlife and its habitat in their local communities and tribal areas. They are being awarded by the Fish and Wildlife Service under four programs: the Landowner Incentive Program, the Private Stewardship Grant Program, the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program, and the Tribal Wildlife Grant Program. Specific information on all the grants can be found at: [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)
- The Laura Jane Musser Fund has announced its intent to assist public or not-for-profit groups in conducting consensus-based activities in environmental stewardship or dispute resolution in rural areas. State and Federal agencies based in the U.S. are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is September 30, 2005. Grants maximum is \$35,000. Please see <http://www.musserfund.org/environmental.htm>
- The Department of Homeland Security has announced the availability of \$32.5 million in Fire Prevention & Safety Grants. The 2005 application period starts September 6th and ends October 7th. Tribes are eligible for this grant. The purpose of these grants, according to the guidance, is "to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The primary goal of the...grant is to reach high-risk target groups in order to mitigate the high incidences of death and injuries." For more information, go to [www.firegrantsupport.com/fp\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.firegrantsupport.com/fp_guidance.aspx).

## RESOURCES

### REPORTS

- *Trends and Current Status of the Contribution of the Forestry Sector to National Economies* is a report developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which gives the latest numbers on the value of forestry sector production and exports and how many jobs it provides in the global economy. It is available at: [www.fao.org/documents/show\\_cdr.asp?url\\_file=/docrep/007/ad493e/ad493e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/007/ad493e/ad493e00.htm) or email [Adrian.Whiteman@fao.org](mailto:Adrian.Whiteman@fao.org)
- A Record of Proceedings for the Western Counties Partnership on Restoration (CPR) Summit held in Ruidoso, NM is now available online at [www.nmforestry.com](http://www.nmforestry.com) under the link to the Western CPR Summit. If you have difficulty opening this document, it is also available by contacting the New Mexico State Forestry office at (505) 476-3325 or the Otero County office at (505) 437-7427.

## BOOKS

- [Adaptive Governance: Integrating Science, Policy, and Decision Making](#) by Ronald D. Brunner, Toddi A. Steelman, Lindy Coe-Juell, Christina M. Cromley, Christine M. Edwards, Donna W. Tucker. Drawing on five detailed case studies from the American West, this new book explores and clarifies how to expedite a transition toward adaptive governance and break the gridlock in natural resource policymaking. Case studies discussed include a program to protect endangered fish in the Colorado River; a district ranger's innovative plan to manage national forestland in northern New Mexico; and how community-based forestry groups are affecting legislative change in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit Columbia University Press at: [www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/catalog/data/023113/0231136242.HTM](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/catalog/data/023113/0231136242.HTM)

## WEB-BASED TOOLS

- Now available on the Partnership Resource Center website are web-based *Implementation Tools* (<http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org/resources/imp-tools/>) to assist both Forest Service employees and partners with implementing projects on National Forest lands and private land. These Implementation Tools are intended to provide quick access to information to formalize project working relationships between the Forest Service and outside organizations; and help focus your organization's time and Forest Service resources to achieve mutual goals and opportunities.

## CASE STUDIES

- The Southeast Watershed Forum has developed a series of one-page case studies of watershed success stories in the Southeast. They are listed in the Southeast Watershed Assistance Network Resource Database. Currently, the topics include acid mine drainage, community forestry, green development, open space protection, watershed-based permitting, and community education. These are interesting examples of programs with a proven record of success that can be replicated in your community. Feel free to copy them and use them in your programs, or call the contacts noted in each case study to receive more details. To access these case studies, please visit:  
<http://swan.southeastwaterforum.org/resources/categories.asp?catid=216>.

## NEWSLETTERS/UPDATES

- To sign up for American Forests' policy news and updates, please e-mail Laura Schweitzer at [Lschweitzer@amfor.org](mailto:Lschweitzer@amfor.org)

## GENERAL RESOURCES

- American Forests. Visit their website at [www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org)
- Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress. Visit their website at [www.communitiescommittee.org](http://www.communitiescommittee.org)
- National Network of Forest Practitioners. Visit their website at [www.nnfp.org](http://www.nnfp.org)

- Pinchot Institute for Conservation. Visit their website at [www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org)
- The National Community Forestry Center, Northern Forest Region, offers numerous community forestry-related documents available for free downloading. Check it out at: [www.ncfcnfr.net](http://www.ncfcnfr.net)

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to *Forest Community News: The National Perspective*, please email Paige McClanahan ([pmcclanahan@pinchot.org](mailto:pmcclanahan@pinchot.org)). Questions and/or suggestions should also be emailed to Paige.

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